



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

[Docket ID BSEE-2020-0011; EEEE500000 21XE1700DX EX1SF0000.EAQ000;

OMB Control Number 1014-0005]

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Relief or Reduction in Royalty Rates**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Information Collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) proposes to renew an information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function. Please provide a copy of your comments to Kye Mason, BSEE ICCO, 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166; or by email to [kye.mason@bsee.gov](mailto:kye.mason@bsee.gov).

Please reference OMB Control Number 1014-0005 in the subject line of your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Kye Mason by email at [kye.mason@bsee.gov](mailto:kye.mason@bsee.gov), or by telephone at (703) 787-1607. You may also view the ICR at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the PRA and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

A *Federal Register* notice with a 60-day public comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on August 24, 2020 [85 FR 52148]. No comments were received.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we are again soliciting comments from the public and other Federal agencies on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

- (1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- (2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal

identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

*Abstract:* This authority and responsibility are among those delegated BSEE. The regulations at 30 CFR part 203, are the subject of this collection. This request also covers the related Notices to Lessees and Operators (NTLs) that BSEE issues to clarify, supplement, or provide additional guidance on some aspects of our regulations. The information collected under 30 CFR part 203, Relief or Reduction in Royalty Rates is used in our efforts to make decisions on the economic viability of leases requesting a suspension or elimination of royalty or net profit share. These decisions have enormous monetary impact on both the lessee and the Federal government. Royalty relief can lead to increased production of natural gas and oil, creating profits for lessees, and royalty and tax revenues for the Federal government that they might not otherwise receive. We could not make an informed decision without the collection of information required by 30 CFR part 203.

*Title of Collection:* 30 CFR Part 203, Relief or Reduction in Royalty Rates.

*OMB Control Number:* 1014-0005.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* Potential respondents include Federal OCS oil, gas, and sulfur lessees and/or operators and holders of pipeline rights-of-way.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:* Currently there are approximately 60 Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Operators in the OCS. Not all the potential respondents will submit information in any given year, and some may submit multiple

times.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 28.

*Estimated Completion Time per Response:* Varies from 1 hour to 2,000 hours, depending on activity.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 724.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Some responses are mandatory; while others are required to obtain or retain a benefit.

*Frequency of Collection:* Submissions are generally on occasion.

*Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:* \$27,950.

An agency may not conduct, or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

**Kirk Malstrom,**

*Chief, Regulations and Standards Branch.*

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